

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The specification has been amended by adding an example of the anionic emulsifier having formula (2), as supported by Anionic emulsifier (1) in Table 1, *6 at page 33 combined with page 36 of the specification. In addition, the specification has been amended to clarify that the metal salt of an aromatic sulfonic acid/formaline condensate, which may also be the anionic emulsifier of the present invention, does not have formula (2).

New Claim 15 has been added, as supported by above-discussed Anionic emulsifier (1)

Claim 2 has been canceled and replaced with new Claim 16, which is, in essence, Claim 2 in independent form, except that R is recited as a substituent containing at least one unsubstituted or substituted styrylphenyl group, as supported in the specification at page 9, line 3 through page 13, line 3.

New Claims 17-28 have been added, and correspond to Claims 3-14, respectively, but depend or ultimately depend on Claim 16.

All improper multiple dependencies have been deleted from the original claims. In addition, the term “characterized in that” has been replaced with --wherein-- in Claim 1. The term “characterized by” in Claim 14 has been replaced with --comprising--.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1 and 3-28 are now pending in the application.

REMARKS

The rejection of Claims 1-4 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by any of US 3,839,241 (Harrell), US 5,322,886 (Sauterey), US 5,766,762 or US 5,912,079 (Miyagawa et al), or GB 1,529,495 (Bayer), is respectfully traversed. (Both Miyagawa et al references have the same disclosure.)

None of the applied prior art discloses or suggests a polychloroprene latex obtained by emulsion polymerization in the presence of a nonionic emulsifier and an anionic emulsifier, wherein the anionic emulsifier has the formula (2), as recited in Claim 1. Nor for new Claims 16 and claims dependent thereon does the applied prior art disclose or suggest the particular combination of nonionic emulsifiers and anionic emulsifiers recited therein.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by JP 49-59186 (JP ‘186) or JP 5-331440 (JP ‘440), is respectfully traversed. These references are deficient for the same reasons as the above-applied references. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-4 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Harrell, Sauterey, Miyagawa et al, Bayer, JP ‘440 or JP ‘186 (“primary references”) in view of JP 7-90031 (JP ‘031), JP 8-188694 (JP ‘694), JP 8-269114 (JP ‘114) or JP 9-012656 (JP ‘656), is respectfully traversed.

The disclosures and deficiencies of the primary references have been discussed above. JP ‘031 is from the same patent family as Sauterey, and thus adds nothing. JP ‘694, JP ‘114 and JP ‘656 are all drawn to vinyl chloride resin emulsions. None of these references, combined with the primary references, disclose or suggest the presently-recited combination of nonionic emulsifiers and anionic emulsifiers. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

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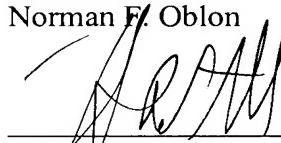
The objection to Claims 5-13 as being improper multiply dependent claims is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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